onions from the States of Maharashtra, karnataka and Gujarat. these onions were purchased from the regulated mandis in open auction at the then prevailing prices at the time of purchase. To augment supply, certain quantity was also purchased from Associate Chippers.

The NAFED has submitted a claim of Rs.10.59 crores to the Department of Consumer Affairs for reimbursement towards the losses suffered in procuring onions at market rates and supplying the same at a subsidised rate of Rs.8 Per kg. to the distributing agencies in Delhi from 14.7.98 to 4.12.98. The Public distribution of onion at concessional rate is still continuing. Out of the total claim, an amount of Rs.6.61 crores has already been paid to NAFED.

Sexual Undertones in Class IX English Course of CBSE

*196 SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBSE English course of class IX contains sexual undertones which do not conform with the Indian values;

(b) if so, whether there has been any complaint from parents of the students; and

(c) what is the use of containing the said sexual undertones in the text book of adolescent students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

यमुना के जल में कैंसर के जिम्मेदार तत्व

*197 श्री रामजीलाल: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 22 सितम्बर, 1998 के 'राष्ट्रीय सहारा' में 'यमुना जल में कैंसर का जिम्मेदार तत्व मौजूद' शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) इसके निराकरण के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु): (क) से (ग) समाचार, 1993-94 के आसपास यमुना नदी में अवसादों पर जवाहर लाल नेहरु विश्वविद्यालय के एक पी०एच०डी० छात्र द्वारा किए गए अनुसंधान अध्ययन से संबंधित है। इस अध्ययन के अनुसार अवसाद के नमूने वजीराबाद के आसपास से इकट्ठे किए गए जहां निजामुद्दीन पुल एवं ओखला बैराज के बीच नजफगढ़ नाला नदी में मिलता है। इन नमूनों के विश्लेषणों में फालों क्लीरीनेटेड बाइफिनैल (पी०सी०बी०) जो संभवतः मानव में कैंसर के लिए जिम्मेदार तत्व है, की सान्द्रता नजफगढ़ नाला आउटफाल के पास 710 भाग प्रति बिलियन से 1.4 भाग प्रति बिलियन के बीच पाई गई। केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण बोर्ड से इस संबंध में विस्तृत जांच करने के लिए कहा गया है।

Capital Punishment to Adulterators

*198. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Delhi and other parts of North India in particular are living under the shadow of death and diseases due to rampant adulteration in milk, edible oils and other foodstuffs for the past some years;

(b) whether the steps taken so far to curb the activities of the hydraheaded adulterators have proved to be perfunctory;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide for summary trail and capital punishment to the adulterators; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) According to the available information from the State/UT Governments, the overall extent of adulteration in various foodstuffs including milk and edible oils

has been found to range between 8 and 11 percent during the last five years, i.e., 1993 to 1997. The recent tragedy in Delhi due to consumption of adulterated mustard oil was an unusual case of conspiracy which is under detailed investigation by CBI. Meanwhile 84 cases of adulteration of mustard oil in Delhi have been taken up for prosecution under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder.

(c) and (d) The rules made under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act are amended from time to time to make them more effective keeping in view the changing needs. The Act already provides for summary trail and stringent punishment for adulterators. In cases of proven adulteration, the Act provides for a minimum punishment of six months imprisonment which may extend upto three years with fine. However, in cases where such adulteration is found to cause death or bodily harm, as would amount to grievous hurt, within the meaning of Section 320 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), the adulterator shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years, but which may extend to term of life, and with fine which shall not be less than five thousand rupees.

Fund for Homoeopathic Dispensaries

*199. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds for setting up of homoeopathic dispensaries and hospitals, as per allocations in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds released and utilised;

(c) the number of homoeopathic dispensaires set-up by these funds which remain non-functional due to non-filling of the existing vacancies for homoeopathic doctors;

(d) by when the vacancies are likely to be filled; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALH AND FAMILY WELFRE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) an amount of Rs. 32.00 lakhs for setting up Homoeopathic dispensaries/units has been allocated in Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) to (e) The expansion of CGHS dispesnaries is dependent on the submission of the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) Report which is under finalisation. After the report is received, proposals to create new posts have to be carried out as per the norms and the annual priorities determined by the SIU and CGHS. Alongside, a requisition has been sent to UPSC for filling up the existing vacant posts. Action to convene Departmental Promotion Committees to fill up the posts of Chief Medical Officer/Senior Medical Officer has been directed to be taken in hand.

Foreign Exchange spent on Import of Sugar

*200. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of foreign exchange spent on account of import of sugar during the last five years;

(b) what is the actual amount of foreign exchange spent particulary from 1.4.98 to 30.9.98 on account of import of sugar;

(c) what has been the total production of sugar during the last five years, year-wise and what is the expected production this year; and

(d) what has been the total consumption of sugar during the last five years year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER